

# **AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES PROGRAM UTAH DIVISION OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES**

## **CENTRAL REGION SUMMARY**

(January 1 thru December 31, 2012)

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### General

UDWR's new Utah Division of State Parks and Recreation (SP&R) contract for aquatic invasive species (AIS) management has proven to be a success. Implementation shows that the number of boats interdicted (inspections, boater AIS education and decontaminations when needed) has increased. Also, compliance with the required Decontamination Certification Form has increased, too. SP&R has a distinct visibility advantage at the state parks, since personnel are present during all hours of operation, making pre-launch AIS contacts. The public is acutely aware of the State of Utah's AIS program, and they expect to be contacted by Department of Natural Resources employees, regardless of whether or not the representative is with Utah Division of Wildlife Resources (UDWR) or SP&R.

### Region-wide Operations

One Biologist I position was funded for 12 months by UDWR (\$73,929) to manage the regional AIS Program and to supervise the Wildlife Technician II position and some of the Wildlife Technician I positions. Additionally, the Biologist coordinated multiple state parks in their implementation of the Utah Aquatic Invasive Species Management Plan (Plan).

One Wildlife Technician II position was funded for 6 months by UDWR (\$24,382) to supervise some of the Wildlife Technician I positions and to rove between regional waters as needed.

Multiple Wildlife Technician I positions and Lead Ranger Aides performed AIS duties at individual water bodies or state parks during the highest boating periods.

In summary the following was accomplished by AIS staff in the region performing for UDWR, SP&R or their partners:

- 40,183 boats were interdicted pre-launch and inspected.
- 90,010 folks (estimated) while boating, which includes the boat operator and those who accompanied them, were educated about:
  - (1) Risks from quagga and zebra mussels; and
  - (2) How to self-decontaminate the boat.

**Note:** The estimated numbers of people educated are based upon boater contacts made in the Southern Region (20,876) and Northeastern Region (15,748), which documented the number of folks who accompanied a boat (57,560 in the Southern Region and 26,944 in Northeastern Region) and who were also educated about AIS risks and boat decontamination protocols, particularly the Clean, Drain & Dry method. So, this data shows 1.71 (Northeastern Region) to 2.76 folks per boat (Southern Region) via actual count were educated. Thus, on average 2.24 folks per boat (N = 84,504) are anticipated to be educated during a boater contact.

- 46 boats were professionally decontaminated due to their stated use within the prior 30 days on a quagga, zebra or false dark mussel affected water body.
  - No boats were discovered to be encrusted with quagga, zebra or false dark mussels.
- Law Enforcement personnel from UDWR, SP&R or their partners made thousands of contacts to enforce Rule R657-60. These contacts are not included in the region or statewide totals, but stand alone. Most of the contacts were outreach oriented, although many involved issuance of a non-compliance notice, and a few written “warning” or “notice to appear in court” citations were issued. Compliance rates are considered to be good and improving.
  - No Administrative Checkpoints were conducted; however the Wendover Port of Entry was assessed. The assessment determined that too few boats passed to warrant a checkpoint.
- Watercraft Inspection and Decontamination Training (WIT) as either level I or level II occurred for all DWR Technician I & II positions and all SP&R employees involved with AIS boat inspections at state parks within the region.
- AIS Biologist conducted AIS presence/absence inspections at State Fish Hatcheries and at origination and destination sites for wild fish transfers to minimize inadvertent spread of AIS through routine wildlife management practices.

### **Central Region Water-By-Water Reports (listed in alphabetical order)**

Deer Creek Reservoir, Jordanelle Reservoir, Strawberry Reservoir, Utah Lake and Yuba Reservoir

#### Deer Creek State Park

- The budget was \$41,000 and AIS personnel performed for 12.44 months or 1.04 FTE as follows:
  - Contracted SP&R to implement the Plan as follows:
    - 2 CUWCD funded Technician I positions @ \$20,000—6.22 months (3.11 each—Memorial Day thru Labor Day).
    - 2 Provo River Watershed Council funded Technician I positions @ \$21,000—6.22 months (3.11 each—Memorial Day thru Labor Day).
- One \$13,400 trailer-mounted decontamination unit purchased with UDWR funds in an earlier fiscal year was stationed at the reservoir.
- 6,772 boats were interdicted, inspected as needed, and educated about AIS.
- 3 boats were professionally decontaminated due to their stated use within the prior 30 days on a quagga, zebra or false dark mussel affected water body as follows: 2 boats from Sand Hollow and 1 boat from Lake Mead.
  - No boats were encrusted with invasive mussels.
- Boater History of Last Water Visited (N = 100 boater interviews)
  - Top 5 Last Waters Visited
  - 1. Deer Creek = 58 (58%)
  - 2. Utah Lake = 14
  - 3. Strawberry = 9
  - 4. Jordanelle = 5

#### 5. Lake Powell = 4

- Plankton samples for presence/absence of *Dreissena veligers* were sent to the Bureau of Reclamation's microscopy lab in Denver, CO; all were found to be negative.
- Regional Conservation Officers and State Park Rangers assisted with the interdiction, inspection and education of boaters during their routine boater/angler checks. Written warnings citations were given to boaters that were non-compliant with the self-certification process. No "Notice to Appear" in court citations was issued.

#### Jordanelle State Park

- The budget was \$41,000 and AIS personnel performed for 12.44 months or 1.04 FTE as follows:
  - Contracted SP&R to implement the Plan as follows:
    - 2 CUWCD funded Technician I positions @ \$20,000—6.22 months (3.11 each—Memorial Day thru Labor Day).
    - 2 Provo River Watershed Council funded Technician I positions @ \$21,000—6.22 months (3.11 each—Memorial Day thru Labor Day).
- One \$13,400 trailer-mounted decontamination unit purchased with UDWR funds in an earlier fiscal year was stationed at the reservoir.
- 10,336 boats were interdicted, inspected as needed, and educated about AIS.
- 11 boats were professionally decontaminated due to their stated use within the prior 30 days on a quagga, zebra or false dark mussel affected water body as follows: 3 boats from Sand Hollow, 2 boats from Lake Mead and 6 boats with either an unknown use history or the owner simply requested a professional decontamination.
  - No boats were encrusted with quagga or zebra mussels.
- Boater History of Last Water Visited (N = 100 boater interviews)
  - Top 5 Last Waters Visited
  - 1. Jordanelle (57 or 57%)
  - 2. Utah Lake (10)
  - 3. Lake Powell (9)
  - 4. Deer Creek (5)
  - 5. Willard Bay (4)
- Plankton samples for presence/absence of *Dreissena veligers* were sent to the Bureau of Reclamation's microscopy lab in Denver, CO; all were found to be negative.
- Regional Conservation Officers and State Park Rangers assisted with the interdiction, inspection and education of boaters during their routine boater/angler checks. Written warnings citations were given to boaters that were non-compliant with the self-certification process. No "Notice to Appear" in court citations was issued.

#### Strawberry Reservoir

- The budget was \$38,332 and AIS personnel performed for 11.22 months or 0.935 FTE.
  - UDWR implemented the Plan as follows:
    - 1 UDWR funded Technician I position @ \$18,332—5 months (May thru September).
    - 2 CUWCD funded Technician I positions @ \$20,000—6.22 months (3.11 each—Memorial Day thru Labor Day).

- Two \$13,400 trailer-mounted decontamination units purchased in earlier fiscal years with UDWR funds were stationed at the reservoir (one at Phillips Marina and the one at Soldier Creek).
- 6,216 boats were interdicted, inspected as needed, and educated about AIS.
- One boat was professionally decontaminated due to its stated use within the prior 30 days on a quagga, zebra or false dark mussel affected water body as follows: 1 boat from Sand Hollow.
  - No boats were encrusted with quagga or zebra mussels.
- Boater History of Last Water Visited (N = 100 boater interviews)
  - Top 5 Last Waters Visited
    1. Strawberry (64 or 64%)
    2. Deer Creek (9)
    3. Jordanelle (3)
    4. Utah Lake (3)
    5. Flaming Gorge (2)
- Plankton samples for presence/absence of *Dreissena veligers* were sent to the Bureau of Reclamation's microscopy lab in Denver, CO; all were found to be negative.
- Regional Conservation Officers and State Park Rangers assisted with the interdiction, inspection and education of boaters during their routine boater/angler checks. Written warnings citations were given to boaters that were non-compliant with the self-certification process. No "Notice to Appear" in court citations was issued.

#### Utah Lake (includes Utah Lake State Park)

- The budget was \$30,832 and AIS personnel performed for 8.64 months or 0.72 FTE.
  - UDWR implemented the Plan on all areas of the lake, except at the State Park, as follows:
    - 1 UDWR funded Technician I position @ \$18,332—5 months (May thru September).
  - SP&R was contracted to implement the Plan at the State Park as follows:
    - 1 BOR/CUWCD funded Technician I position @ \$12,500—3.64 months (Memorial Day thru mid September).
- Two \$13,400 trailer-mounted decontamination units purchased in earlier fiscal years with UDWR funds were stationed at the lake (one at Utah Lake State Park and the one with the roving UDWR Technician I working lake wide).
- 13,107 boats were interdicted, inspected as needed, and educated about AIS.
- 27 boats were professionally decontaminated due to their stated use within the prior 30 days on a quagga, zebra or false dark mussel affected water body as follows: 10 boats from Sand Hollow, 4 boats from Lake Mead, 1 boat from Lake Havasu, and 12 boats with either an unknown use history or the owner simply requested a professional decontamination.
  - No boats were encrusted with quagga or zebra mussels.
- Boater History of Last Water Visited (N = 100 boater interviews)
  - Top 5 Last Water Visited
    1. Utah Lake (57 or 57%)
    2. Lake Powell (18)
    3. Deer Creek (5)

4. Jordanelle (4)

5. Bear Lake (3)

- Plankton samples for presence/absence of *Dreissena* veligers were sent to the Bureau of Reclamation's microscopy lab in Denver, CO; all were found to be negative.
- Regional Conservation Officers and State Park Rangers assisted with the interdiction, inspection and education of boaters during their routine boater/angler checks. Written warnings citations were given to boaters that were non-compliant with the self-certification process. No "Notice to Appear" in court citations was issued.

#### Yuba Reservoir State Park

- The budget was \$17,150 and AIS personnel performed for 5.0 months or 0.42 FTE.
  - Contracted SP&R to implement the Plan as follows:
    - 1 BLM funded Technician I position @ \$17,150; 5.0 months (May thru September).

**Note:** Another UDWR technician II (cost reported above) roved between regional water bodies, supervising the UDWR Technicians and coordinating with Utah Division of State Parks and Recreation.
- One \$13,400 trailer-mounted decontamination unit purchased with UDWR funds in an earlier fiscal year was stationed at the reservoir.
- 3,752 boats were interdicted, inspected as needed, and educated about AIS.
- 4 boats were professionally decontaminated due to their stated use within the prior 30 days on a quagga, zebra or false dark mussel affected water body as follows: 2 boats from Sand Hollow, 1 boat from Lake Mead, and 1 boat from east of the 100<sup>th</sup> Meridian.
  - No boats were encrusted with quagga or zebra mussels.
- Boater History of Last Water Visited (N = 100 boater interviews)
  - Top 5 Last Water Visited
  - 1. Yuba (51 or 51%)
  - 2. Utah Lake (15)
  - 3. Lake Powell (9)
  - 4. Strawberry (5)
  - 5. Deer Creek (3)
- Plankton samples for presence/absence of *Dreissena* veligers were sent to the Bureau of Reclamation's microscopy lab in Denver, CO; all were found to be negative.
- Regional Conservation Officers and State Park Rangers assisted with the interdiction, inspection and education of boaters during their routine boater/angler checks. Written warnings citations were given to boaters that were non-compliant with the self-certification process. No "Notice to Appear" in court citations was issued.

#### **CRO Work Completed on Other Non-Dreissena AIS**

- **Non-Dreissena AIS Discovered Around Strawberry Reservoir**
  - A few individuals of New Zealand mudsnail were found by the Utah State University Bug Lab crew on 9/25/2003 at the Upper Strawberry River's Highway 40 Road Crossing. None have been detected by UDWR since, including multiple inspections since the 2008 inception of UDWR's current AIS program. The UTM coordinates for

- the road crossing are: 12N 480755, 4458968. An additional search conducted on September 2012 of this site did not detect any snails.
- An AIS presence/absence survey was completed at UDWR's Strawberry Reservoir Fish Trap on October 12<sup>th</sup>, 2012 (UTM 12N 484375, 4454085). No AIS were found.

- **Non-Dreissena AIS Discovered in Other Areas of the Region**

- AIS presence/absence surveys were completed at Miller Springs (12N 253953, 4385120) and its inlet stream. Sampling was conducted September 10<sup>th</sup>, 2012 and no AIS were found.
- AIS presence/absence surveys completed on Leland Harris Springs (12N 252021, 4383015). Sampling was conducted September 10<sup>th</sup>, 2012 and no AIS were found.

END